

completed, will be the nearest thing we have to that great desideratum, a field guide to the birds of South America. Although the text, in Portuguese, is a narrative rather than the usual species-by-species field-guide text, the illustrations stand by themselves and appear to be comprehensive.

The Breeding Birds of Europe 2: Sandgrouse to Crows: a photographic handbook, by **Mangred Pforr** and **Alfred Himbrunner** (Croom Helm, £17.95) is another variant on a well-worn theme, but a useful one. The large format allows for four colour photographs of each bird, often including one of the nest and eggs and others of various plumages. The text deals not with field characters, but habitat and other biological information, and there is a map for each species.

Birds of Fiji, Tonga and Samoa, by **Dick Watling** (Croom Helm, £25) partly fills one of the great gaps in the world's bird books, a comprehensive work of the Pacific islands. The illustrations by **Chloe Talbot-Kelly**, are first-class and some are of birds not shown in any other modern bird book. The text provides a great deal of information that is otherwise very hard to come by.

A Field Guide to the Birds of East Africa, by **John G. Williams** (Collins, £7.95) is the revised edition of a famous book, the first of the great modern array of field guides outside the European and North American heartlands. The illustrations, by **Norman Arlott**, are a great improvement on the originals, and the text has been updated too.

A Field Guide to the Mammals of Africa, including Madagascar, by **Theodor Haltenorth**, with colour plates by **Helmut Diller** (Collins, £8.95) has to be compared with **Dorst and Dandelot's *Field Guide to the Large Mammals of Africa***. Despite the more ambitious title, its scope seems to be much the same, apart from adding seals and Madagascar. Neither book covers bats, even *Pteropus*, which one might be forgiven for thinking large. The text, however, is a great deal more comprehensive, and can therefore be recommended even to those who already possess the earlier book.

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Publications

Gunung Mulu National Park, Sarawak, a management and development plan, by **J.A.R. Anderson, A.C. Jermy** and **The Earl of Cranbrook** (Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR, £6.00 including postage (UK)).

This national park covers one of the most outstanding areas of tropical rain-forest in South-East Asia. The plan resulted from the 1977–78 Royal Geographical Society/Sarawak Government Survey and contains a detailed account of the park with lists of vascular plants, vertebrates and selected invertebrates.

Chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls in freshwater fishes in the United Kingdom 1980–1981, by **R.C. Hider, C.F. Mason** and **M.E. Bakaj.**

This report to the Vincent Wildlife Trust concludes that the levels of persistent pesticides discovered in fishes are unlikely to be adversely affecting otter populations at present. Free from ffPS – send large (220 × 160 mm) S.A.E. (12½p) or international reply coupon.